

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 20 were pending at the time of examination. Claims 6-19 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-4 have been canceled. Claims 5 and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,527,262 to Hagino et al. (hereinafter “Hagino”). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention relates to an active vibration damping mount or vibration damper having an actuator of unique structure for precisely and easily positioning an output member with respect to a housing of the actuator.

More specifically, an annular fixing member is disposed about the output member of the actuator, and is elastically connected with the fixing member by means of a support rubber interposed therebetween. The annular fixing member has a positioning projection arranged to be inserted into the housing of the actuator along an inner circumferential surface of the housing. With this arrangement, the annular fixing member (output member) is positioned in an axis-perpendicular direction with respect to an inner circumferential surface of the housing at a location situated inward by a given distance from the opening of the housing.

This arrangement allows the positioning projection to provide positioning action in the axis-perpendicular direction prior to the output member reaching the final assembly position relative to the housing, thereby providing precise positioning. Furthermore, since the positioning projection is accommodated within the housing of the actuator, problems resulting from interference of other components positioned outside the housing are efficiently prevented, and a consistent positioning can be achieved, while avoiding increase in size of the actuator (*see* paragraph [0015] of the specification).

The applicants respectfully submit that Hagino fails to teach the positioning projection accommodated within the housing of the actuator, as recited in claims 5 and 20. In the latest Office Action, the Examiner contends that the “component 59” functions as a positioning member. However, this positioning member 59 is disposed outside the housing of the actuator 124, and is affixed to the second mounting member (upper sleeve 28) of the vibration damping mount. Due to the presence of the fluid chamber within the upper sleeve 28 of the mount, the

positioning member 59 is inevitably affixed to the upper sleeve 28 by means of a sealing rubber layer 61, which makes it difficult to achieve precise positioning of the output member with respect to the housing of the actuator in the axis-perpendicular direction due to the elastic deformation of the sealing rubber layer 61.

Furthermore, since the Hagino's positioning member 59 is disposed outside the housing of the actuator, the mount disclosed in Hagino is not compact in size in comparison with the mount according to the present invention.

That is, since Hagino fails to teach the positioning projection accommodated within the housing of the actuator, it cannot achieve advantages of the present invention as discussed above. For at least these reasons, the present invention as described in claims 5 and 20, respectively, is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Hagino. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 5 and 20 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

The applicants hereby petition for a one-month extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. KASAP052).

Respectfully submitted,
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